GUIDE TO THE NT15 RIVER YUMANS FILE

[The NT15 River Yumans file contains information on an essentially geo-linguistic group. It is composed of two branches of Yuman speakers (Hokan Phylum): Up River, and Delta River Yuman, and part of a third: Southern and Baja California Yuman (Anthropological Linguistics, Languages of the World, North America I, pp. 111-112). The area concerned is along the lower Colorado and Gila Rivers in California, Arizona, northeastern Baja California and northwestern Sonora. The Mohave are the most northerly of the groups being found along the Colorado above the Williams River. Below them are the Halchidoma, then the Kohuana. In Arizona, along the Gila and west of Phoenix are the Maricopa, the sample and the easternmost group, living in conjuction with the Pima; west of them are the Kaveltcadom, who are a Halchidoma speaking group; then the Yuma, who occupy the confluence of the Gila and the Colorado Rivers. These groups comprise the Up River Yuman. The Cocopa, the Halyikwamia, and the Kohuana form the Delta River Yuman along the southern Colorado in southern California and northern Mexico. The dialects of the last two are extinct and all speak Cocopa. The Southern and Baja California branch is only represented in this file by the Kamia, who have shifted over a number of areas in historic times but generally live in northeastern Baja California and extreme southwestern Arizona near the Yuma territory on the Colorado. The approximate geographic coordinates for all of these groups are 32-35° north latitude and 112-115° west longitude. The River Yumans are surrounded by the Walapai and Yavapai on the north, the Apache on the northeast, the Pima on the east, the Papago on the south and the Chemehuevi on the northwest. (See tribal distribution map, 1: Spier, category 116, p. 5).

Population figures from the first decade of this century estimate the numbers for these groups at about 3,400 (Mohave - 1,600 [1905], Cocopa - 800 [1906], Yuma - 650 [1910], and the Maricopa - 386 [1910]). (See Hodge, Handbook of American Indians, BAE No. 30, under tribal names for further figures.) Voegelin (World Languages - N.A., I. pp. 111-112) gives roughly similar current figures totaling 3,000 (1,300 Mohave speakers, 1,000 Yuman, 500 Maricopa, and 200 Cocopa).

The River Yumans are, and have been since before contact, sedentary agriculturalists. They grew maize aboriginally, but have grown wheat since its introduction by the Spanish.

There are six sources in the NT15 file. 1: Spier is the most comprehensive source and provides the best coverage, especially of the Maricopa. But for brief outlines of the Maricopa, the researcher should see 5: Hodge or 6: Curtis. 2: Bartlett contains data on the Coco-Maricopa during the early 1850's. It is especially concerned with material culture, agriculture, history, physical appearance, and relations with missionaries and early explorers. 3: Whited discusses adaptation to reservation life and government policies in 1890. It provides population statistics, data on material culture, diet, disease, income, areas of occupation, education, religion, and "morals." 4: Brown is a brief article on a Pima-Maricopa corn festival which was no longer performed when the article was written.

The file is based on fieldwork stretching from 1850 (2) to 1932 (1). There are accounts of these groups by explorers

from the early seventeenth century, so a good time depth is available. Three of the authors were ethnologists (1, 5, and 6), two were government officials (2 and 3), one was unknown. Almost all of the material in the file concentrates on the Maricopa, perhaps best known because of their association with the Pima and residence on the Pima reservation. This is not a large file but it provides basic coverage of this Yuman group. The file was processed in 1961.]